Man gets trousers stuck in draw – 1927

A young man, fashionably attired in a brand new plus-four suit, paused at the cigarette machine outside the New Theatre, Cambridge, and, inserting a sixpence, drew forth a packet of cigarettes.

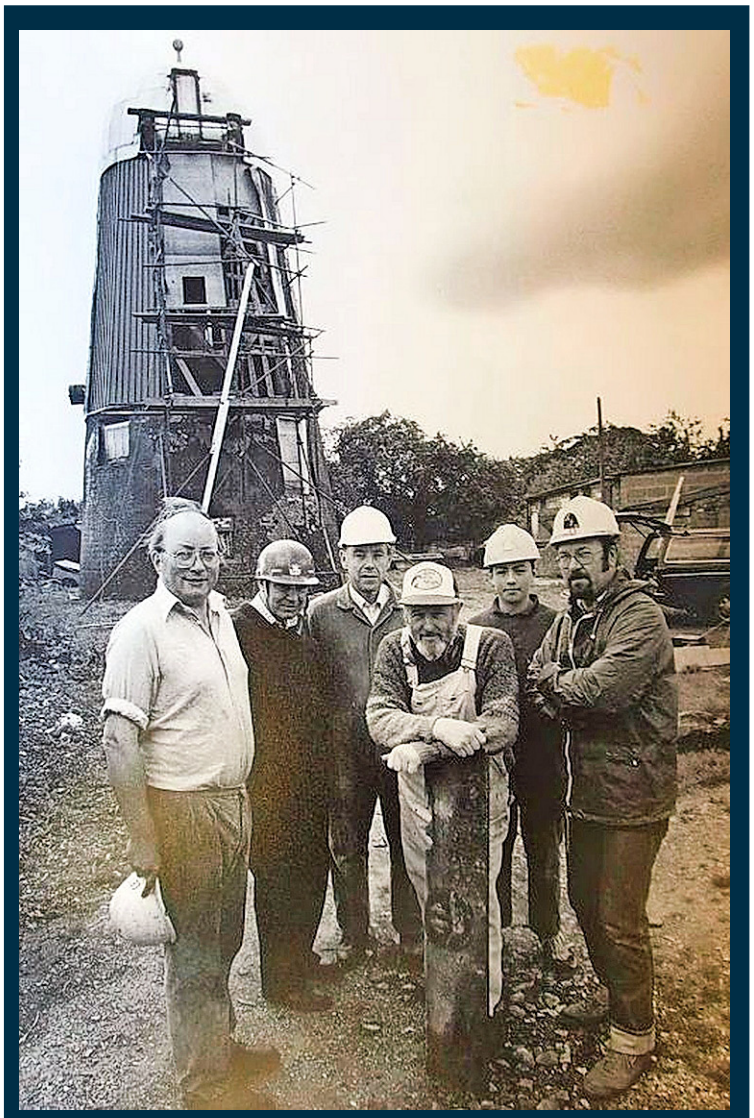
Instead of shutting the drawer in the orthodox manner, he turned his back on the machine and applied pressure by a retrograde movement.

"Snap" went the drawer, taking with it about six inches of the seat of the young man's voluminous "bags".

Finding himself held captive, he appealed for sixpences to release the drawer but none would do the trick.

"Debagging" was out of the question and the prisoner would not hear of being "cut away".

After twenty minutes, one bright person tried the very obvious idea of pulling the handle of the drawer and he was released amid loud cheers.



Putting the spin back in Wicken mill – 1987

The tumble-down windmill at Wicken is being restored to its former glory thanks to a group of dedicated enthusiasts.

They have sunk thousands of pounds into a six-year project to bring it back to working condition.

First, they must rebuild the three wooden floors which have been eaten away by woodworm and dry rot.

The mill was worked by sails until the late 1930s when they were considered dangerous but much of the original machinery is still in place.

A new aluminium cap was put on in 1971 by Chris Wilson, the owner of Over mill, who is assisting with the project.

Bomb warning as county in peril – 1954

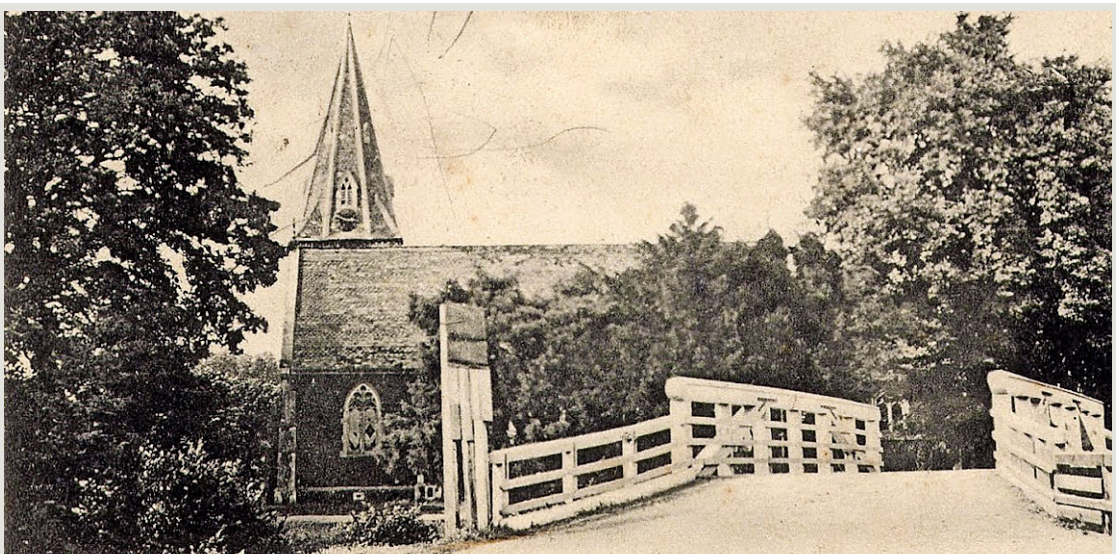
Cambridge councillors discussed the impact of any explosion of a hydrogen bomb on the city.

There would be an area of total destruction three miles immediately below the bomb burst with a radius of ten miles of lesser destruction.

Civil Defence was a misnomer: they would not seek to construct a deep shelter to provide protection for the people of Cambridge in the event of war; it was not 'protection' but 'rescue and aftercare'.

It was obvious that local telephone communication between the controller – if he still existed – and the locality would be useless.

The only way Cambridge would be helped was by a rescue column arriving from another part of the country.



The battle of Ely bridge– 1936

THE Isle of Ely county council heard that the proposed approach road to the new bridge over the River Nene at Benwick had brought objections from the owner of Cosmo House who said it would be untenable as a residence.

An alternative route would entail the removal of the parish hall, owned by Benwick parish council, which stood on a piece of land they hired from the objector.

He would be prepared to accept compensation of £250 and the council £150 to remove the hall to another site when required to do so. This was agreed.

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